

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 /099 W

-----085589 271040Z /12

R 270927Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5014

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: LEBANESE PARTICIPATION IN UNCTAD
COMMON FUND MEETING NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 2

REF: (A) STATE 179166, (B) GENEVA 07068

1. EMBASSY E/C OFFICER CALLED ON FONMIN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR HASSIB AL-ABDULLAH AUGUST 25 REGARDING GOL
PARTICIPATION IN UNCTAD COMMON FUND MEETING NOVEMBER 7.
ABDULLAH APPEARED NOT WELL INFORMED ON PURPOSE OF COMMON
FUND MEETING, BUT SAID GOL WOULD PARTICIPATE. DELEGATE
WILL BE LEBANESE PERMDEL TO U.N. GENEVA AMBASSADOR MAHMOUD
AL BANNA. NO DELEGATE FROM BEIRUT WILL BE SENT.

2. ABDULLAH VOLUNTEERED THAT LEBANON DID NOT PLAY ACTIVE
ROLE IN G-77 AND ON VOTES AND WAS OFTEN GUIDED BY THE U.S.
POSITION. DELEGATE HAS BROAD LATITUDE IN GENEVA EXCEPT
ON QUESTIONS INVOLVING A "FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE" IN WHICH
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CASE HE WOULD BE INSTRUCTED FROM BEIRUT. SOME
LEBANESE POSITIONS, ABDULLAH NOTED WITH A SHRUG,
REFLECTED PRESSURES FROM THE ARAB WORLD.

3. ABDULLAH SAID HE HAD HIMSELF SPENT SOME YEARS AS
GOL DELEGATE TO GENEVA. HE ADMITTED TO HAVING LITTLE
LOVE FOR GENEVA OR FOR THE U.N. IN GENERAL, BUT CLEARLY

HIS EXPERIENCE AND PRESENT POSITION MAKE ABDULLAH THE LOGICAL SOURCE OF GUIDANCE TO BANNA SHOULD DIRECTION BE NEEDED FROM BEIRUT. EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANY STRONG OUTSIDE PRESSURES IN LEBANESE ECONOMY HAVING A SPECIAL INTEREST IN COMMON FUND MEETING.

4. ANSWERS TO PARA 3 REF (A) ARE THEREFORE:

(A) ABDULLAH AND BANNA ARE INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE OF FONMIN SHOULD BE SOURCE OF GUIDANCE TO PERMDEL UNDER FONMIN BOUTROS' OVERALL AUTHORITY;

(B) NO OFFICIALS FROM CAPITAL. INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE GENERAL OR NON-EXISTENT UNLESS FOREIGN PRESSURE (ARAB OR U.S.) IS APPLIED ON GOL IN BEIRUT. BEST LOCUS FOR SEEKING INFLUENCE BANNA WOULD SEEM TO BE GENEVA;

(C) LEBANESE INTEREST IN COMMON FUND ISSUE APPEARS LOW, AND INFLUENCE OVER OTHER COUNTRIES' ATTITUDES WE ALSO BELIEVE IS LOW. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DISCUSSIONS TO IMPART USG VIEWS BE FOCUSED ON BANNA, OR ALTERNATIVELY ON SAUDI ARABIAN OR KUWAITI REP IN GROUP OF 33. SINCE GOL APPRECIATES THAT BOTH GULF STATES PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING LEBANON'S FRAGILE PEACE, ADVICE FROM EITHER OR BOTH OF THEM WOULD CARRY WEIGHT WITH BANNA.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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